

Giday WoldeGabriel

Giday WoldeGabriel graduated from Addis Ababa University with a BS and MS degrees in geology in 1978 and 1980, respectively. He was a lecturer at Addis Ababa University for three years before he moved to the U. S. to pursue his Ph.D. work. He received his Ph.D. in Geology from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1987 and moved to Los Alamos as a Director's Postdoctoral Fellow to work on an experimental continental scientific drilling project into an active geothermal field. He became a staff member in the early 90's, and in 2001 received the Fellow's Prize for Outstanding Research in Science for his profound contributions to the understanding of early hominid evolution in East Africa. In 2010, he became a Lab Fellow. He is a volcanologist, geochemist, and geochronologist by training but has worked on diverse geological studies ranging from site characterization for high-level radioactive waste repository at Yucca Mountain to oil shales, carbon dioxide sequestration, geothermal studies, etc.. He is best known for his geological and paleoenvironmental investigations to human origins research in the Ethiopian Rift System. He is co-leader and lead geologist of a LANL-UC Berkeley collaborative scientific team that has discovered more human ancestor fossils the last 6 million years, including fossils that revealed a transition into modern humans.